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CORBIN FAMILY

(Continued)

4. GAWIN² CORBIN was born, ———, and died January 1st, 1744. He lived first at "Buckingham", Middlesex, and later at "Laneville", King and Queen county. He was J. P. for Middlesex 1698, was a member of the House of Burgesses for that county, 1698, 1699, 1700-1702, 1702-1703, 1705, 1718-1622, and for King and Queen 1734-1740. He was for many years collector and naval officer of the Rappahannock River district. He was never, as has been stated, a member of the Council.

The county and parish records of King and Queen have been destroyed, but a copy of his will is recorded in a suit in the Fredericksburg District Chancery Court. It was dated Nov. 1, 1739, and proved in King and Queen, Feb. 12, 1744. He describes himself as of Stratton Major Parish, King and Queen countq. Bequests to son Richard, who married Betty, daughter of Col. John Tayloe; to son Gawin Corbin all lands lying in Westmoreland, Lancaster, King George and Prince William counties; also 6000 acres in the county of Spotsylvania; refers to his brother, the late Mr. Thomas Corbin, to son Gawin certain slaves given to his (Gawin's) mother by her father William Bassett, Esq. to son Richard, lands in King and Queen and Middlesex, and 6000 acres in Spotsylvania, also a tract in Caroline Co., and Morecox in the south end of Essex; to son John land called Portobago; daughter Alice Needler, my house and four lots in Williamsburg; daughter Allerton. Codicil, names sons and sons-in-law Richard Corbin, Benjamin Needler, Gawin Corbin, when he comes of age, Robert Tucker, and brother-in-law William Bassett Esq. A second codicil says "I give my four white men servants to my son Gawin, and Matthew Cue, coachman, I give to my son John".

Gawin Corbin married (1st) Katherine (born March 4, 1679), daughter of Ralph Wormeley, of "Rosegill", Secretary of State of Virginia, by his wife Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Lunsford. There was no issue by this marriage. Ralph Womeley, in his will dated Feb. 22, 1700, makes a bequest of only 50 pounds to his daughter Catherine Corbin. She having had her portion. She was evidently dead in 1707. In April of that year, Gawin Corbin of Middlesex, Gent, and John Lomax and Elizabeth his wife (late Wormeley) made an agreement, which recited that Corbin, for life, held a portion of a tract called Portobogo (3400 acres) which had been granted to Sir Thomas Lunsford, Oct. 24, 1650, and Lomax and wife had the reversion, and in return for a conveyance of his life title, they deed to him 500 acres.

Gawin Corbin married (2nd) Jane, daughter and co-heiress of John Lane and widow of Willis Wilson. She was living in 1715. On account of the destruction of the records of King and Queen, but little is known



BETTY TAYLOE, WIFE OF COL. RICHARD CORBIN.

From a portrait at Mt. Airy.

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Courtesy of
Mrs. Edwd. Shippen.

of Capt. John Lane, except that he was a member of the House of Burgesses at the session of March 1692-3 and was unseated on petition, and that his arms; per pale, azure and gules, three saltiers were borne by the Corbins as a quartering. It is a coat used by several English families of the name.

Gawin Corbin married (3rd) Martha (born Dec. 28, 1694) daughter of Col. William Bassett, of "Eltham", New Kent county, a member of the Council. She died June 12, 1738.

The compiler of this account has had access to no records which show positively from which of the marriages all the children came. Richard, John and Anne were children of the second marriage and Gawin and Joanna of the third, but there is no positive evidence as to the dates of birth of the daughter Jenny and Alice (2d).

Issue 2nd marriage:

9. *Richard*,³ of whom later.
10. *John*,³ of whom later.
11. Alice,³ died unmarried (pedigree of 1715).
12. Ann³ (named in her father's will) married 1st, Isaac Allerton, of Westmoreland county, 2nd. David Currie, who was for many years minister of Christ Church parish, Lancaster county. Isaac Allerton in his will, 1739, named his wife Ann, Son Gawin etc. By deed May 28, 1745, Rev. David Currie and Ann his wife, late wife of Isaac Allerton, made provision for her, Allerton children.
13. Felicia,³ untraced.
14. GAWIN³ (of whom later.)
15. Joanna,³ "daughter of Gawin and Martha Corbin, of King and Queen county, married, May 17, 1739, by the Rev. Mr. William Phillips, who preached a sermon on the occasion, the words of his text were 'marriage is honorable'", to Col. Robert Tucker, of Norfolk, a member of the House of Burgesses for that borough, 1752, 1753. The *Virginia Gazette*, July 1, 1737, announced the death of "Col. Robert Tucker of Norfolk, many years a very extensive merchant there".

Issue (which marriage uncertain):

16. Jenny,³ or Jane, married John Bushrod, of Westmoreland county. She is not mentioned in Gawin Corbin's will and the only evidence for her existence is the account of the family given by Bishop Meade in his *Old Church and Families of Virginia*. The John Bushrod, she is stated to have married, died in Westmoreland county and his will proved Dec. 30, 1760, names a wife Mildred. As he makes Richard Corbin an executor and as the name Corbin appeared as a Christian name among his descendants, it is probable that Jenny Corbin was his first wife.

17. Alice (named in her father's will) married Benjamin Needler, son of Culverwell Needler, Clerk Assistant to the House of Commons, who had emigrated to Virginia, was appointed Clerk of the Council, Oct. 1739 and who died before April 3, 1741.

9. RICHARD³ CORBIN, born 1708, living 1783, lived first at "Buckingham", Middlesex, and afterwards at "Laneville", King and Queen. He was for many years one of the leading men in the Colony. He was a member of the House of Burgesses for Middlesex 1748-9, was appointed member of Council Jan. 17, 1748-9, and remained a member of that body throughout the Colonial period. For a number of years he was its president. He was Receiver General 1754-1776. Among other offices was that of County Lieutenant of Essex, 1752, &c. He was interested in the settlement of the West and in 1754, with others, patented 20,000 acres on the waters of the Mississippi, beginning at the mouth of Lalots Creek. Col. Corbin was a friend and benefactor of the young George Washington and secured for him his first real opportunity to distinguish himself. In 1754 when a regiment was to be raised in Virginia for service against the French and Indians, Washington, who held the rank of Major in the militia, desired to be appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the new regiment. He wrote to Richard Corbin, then President of the Council.

"March, 1754.

Dear Sir:

In a conversation with you at Green Spring, you gave me some hope for a commission above that of Major, and to be ranked among the chief officers of the expedition. The command of the whole forces is what I neither look for, except or desire; for I must be impartial enough to confess, it is a charge too great for my youth and inexperience to be entrusted with. Knowing this, I have too sincere a love for my country, to undertake that which may tend to the prejudice of it. But if I could entertain hopes, that you thought me worthy of the post of Lieutenant-Colonel, and would favor me so far as to mention it at the appointment of officers, I could not but entertain a true sense of the kindness.

I flatter myself, under a skillful commander, or man of sense (whom I most ardently wish to serve under) with my own appreciation and diligent study of my duty, I shall be able to conduct my steps without censure, and in time, render myself worthy of the promotion that I shall now be favored with."

Col. Corbin sent him the commission with this brief note:

"Dear George:

I enclose you your commission. God prosper you with it.

Your Friend,

Richard Corbin."

The death of Col. Fry soon after the campaign began, gave Washington the command of the regiment, and began his career of greatness.

From this date to the Revolution Richard Corbin's time was filled with punctual and conscientious performance of the duties of his various offices, member of Council, and of the upper House of Assembly, Judge of the General Court and Receiver General. He was also agent for several Virginians living in England and executor for various friends who left large estates.

His letter book 1758-1765 (of which the Virginia Historical Society has a copy, made from the original, which some years ago was in the possession of the late James Parke Corbin of Fredericksburg) shows him to have been one of the busiest men in Virginia and one burdened with great responsibilities. The book also shows the confidence placed in his business ability and high integrity.

A few extracts will show something of the man and of life in Colonial Virginia. It tells of the burning of "Laneville" on March 15, 1758, of his shipments of tobacco, his own crops and others he had bought; of his orders to English merchants for goods to be sent him. On June 15, 1758, he orders of Charles Goore (among other things) 900 yards of cotton, 10 yards of yellow cloth for lining and trimming for three suits of livery, broadcloth for Johnny and Dickey (his sons) 16 doz. pairs of negro stockings, one gross of strong beer, 20 gross of best corks, 12 pairs strong shoes for servants, four pairs shoes and four pairs pumps for a boy twelve years old, and same for boys of eight or five years.

On Aug. 22, 1758 (among other things) a pair of stays to measure sent, a fashionable hoop petticoat; three pairs neat wax leather pumps, a pair of pink satin beaded pumps, two pairs fashionable black stuff pumps, worsted and thread stockings, four pairs gloves, four pairs mittens, two yards marionet lawn, a fan, six yards ribbon for knots, two fashionable egretts, a mask, a fashionable hat, a cheap necklace, a fashionable cap, tucker and ruffles of marionet lace, a suit of pink colored lutestring made to the stays, the petticoat full long; a pattern for two gowns of fine printed linnen of different sorts, one best octavo Bible, for A. C. a pair of stays according to the measure sent, a fashionable hoop petticoat, 14 yards of plain yellow lutestring, a cap, tucker and ruffles, six yards ribbon, one necklace, two egretts, a mask, a fan and a hat, two pairs worsted stockings and three of thread, one piece of printed linen and two yards flowered lawn, for A. N. C. The same for a girl of 12 years old, six pairs pumps for a girl two years old, six pairs mittens, a cap for a girl two years old, a bonnet and six yards of narrow ribbon, for Mrs. Corbin, a hoop petticoat for a middle sized woman, a white sarsanet quilted petticoat for the hoop, a negligee of slight lutestring for the summer, a dark ground cotton negligee, one piece of purple and white caliceo, four pairs black stuff shoes and two-

pairs back sattin, four pairs thread stockings, two pairs worsted stockings and one pair white silk, six pairs best kid gloves and four pairs mittens, one flowered lawn mob, handkerchief and ruffles, 4 yards fine muslin for handkerchiefs, one piece striped dimity, a warm cloak and hood, a hat, $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of black and $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of white ribbon, $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen pairs best steel scissors.

On Sept. 1, 1758 among the articles ordered were 6000 minikin pins, 6000 short white pins, 6000 corking pins, 1000 needles, sorted, a silver laced hat for a boy 12 years old, hats of the same sort for boys of eight or five, a plain hat for himself, two pairs fine cotton stockings and ten pairs black silk, for himself, four pairs D. D. channel pumps to be bought of John Dedsbury, 100 lb. D. D. Sugar, mace, nutmegs, cloves, pepper, ginger, salt-petre, raisins, currants and hyson and "cargon" tea.

On June 25, 1759, he ordered through Buchanan & Co., one gross porter, 30 gallons in cask, one hundred D. D. Gloster cheese, and 30 gallons of vinegar.

On June 25, 1759, among the goods ordered from Capel & Osgood Hanbury, of London, were 30 mens Fearnsthing [?] jackets, large and well sewn, 20 large boys do, and 200 yards of the best cotton; 18 doz. pairs negroes stockings, three pieces of blanketting duffle, 1200 lbs. osnabrigs, two pieces princess linnen, 1 case of pickles to consist of oil, mangoes, capers, anchovies, walnuts and olives, 24 loaves of D. D. refined sugar, six pairs white gloves for a boy of 12, eight for a boy of 8, and 8 pairs for a boy of six, three gloves for servants, three livery laced hats for servants.

On Aug. 1, 1759, in a letter to Mr. Athawes, merchant, of London, Col. Corbin states that as some of his supplies had been lost in a ship captured by the French, and that his daughter Betty would trouble Miss Athawes for an addition to her invoice. The wives and daughters of merchants and friends frequently purchased goods for ladies in Virginia. Among the various things Betty Corbin wished were; a sack and petticoat of slight lutestring, a dark ground cotton negligee, one piece of purple and white cotton, 4 pairs black shoes size small, 5, one pair black satin do, one pair white do, thread, worsted and silk stockings, 8 pairs best kid glazed gloves, 4 pairs mittens, flowered lawn mob, handkerchief and ruffles, warm cloak, hood and a hat and a fashionable suit of clothes. On May 29, 1763, 80 mens pea-jackets and 20 large boys jackets were ordered, evidently for the negroes.

On Nov. 10, 1758, he ordered one pipe of wine annually, from Hill, Lamar and Hill, of Madeira. Later there were other orders for wine and March 29, 1759, Col. Corbin wrote to Capel & Osgood Hanbury: "My son is desirous to make choice of a watch for his sister, for which purpose I have instructed him to apply to you for forty pounds." On March 29, 1759, to James Buchanan & Co., "Mr. Randolph has given orders for a coach and instructed the maker to apply to you for the

money. To obtain credit with you he has supposed it necessary for me to assure of a remittance of 85 pounds next October."

Though, as the inventories show, the country stores in Virginia were quite well stocked, the great planters were in the habit of buying in Great Britain nearly everything they needed for their families, servants, slaves and farms.

Col. Corbin's son, Gawin, was at this time at Christs College, Cambridge. His father frequently wrote to his merchants to supply Gawin with necessary money, and to friends to aid and advise him.

On Aug. 21st, 1758, Mr. Corbin wrote to his son:

"Mr. Thomas Rootes will be the bearer of this Letter. He will ata. to you himself and if he does not meet with you in London, he will make a visit to Cambridge. I observe by your last letter that you are to continue at Cambridge till July next, [and?] after two years stay at the Temple, I shall hope for your return to your own country; but this will depend upon incidents that may arise in the meantime. We very sensibly feel the weight and Burthen of the war and hope for some favorable circumstances to give peace to the World, we have had 16 m (thousand) men landed at Cape Breton near two months, they were escorted thereby a large naval armament, we have been some time in expectation of the news of the surrender of the important Fortress of Louisburg, but from the length of the siege, we begin to be doubtful of the event. Our armaments in the interior parts have not answered our expectations and I believe if the wisest General the world ever saw was to command an army in the Desarts of America where he did not know or could not procure a good Geography of the country he would hardly prove successful agst, an enemy who had this knowledge. When you are settled at the Temple you will have a full view of the busy scene of Life, and be sourrounded by many and various temptations. Then will be the time to put your virtue to the trial and this will be the time, my dear son, to call to your remembrance the care of tender parents and the instructions you have received from very able masters that you be not ensnared by any of them. Let me recommend to you one caution, never to run in debt or exceed the bounds of your allowance, never buy anything without money to pay for it immediately. I am now repairing with all expedition the loss of my house and shall provide materials for a house for you (before) you arrive. Pray write to your Uncle Tayloe and your Uncle Gawin Corbin, they complain of your neglect. I am, my Dear Son, with the most anxious concern for your Welfare and Happiness,

Your tender & affectionate father".

Col. Corbin was as deeply concerned about the education of the children at home as the one in England. In a letter to the Hanburys, dated June 3, 1766, he says:

"I am in great want of a tutor to my children, it gives me pain to see them misspending the precious moments of their youth. I must earnestly intreat you therefore to procure me an honest man well skilled in the languages, that writes a good hand, and is throughly acquainted with arithmetick and accounts. This is so interesting to me that I flatter myself you will exert your endeavors to engage a gentleman qualified in all respects for this business and send him over by the first ship. The instruction of Youth is a very great and important concern, and in proportion to this importance my confidence will be in your care and prudence to make a good choice which will lay me under an obligation that never shall be forgot."

(To be continued)